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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, we have heard of Your greatness from generation to generation. You sit enthroned in majesty, for Your glory covers all the Earth.

Today, bless and sustain our lawmakers and their staffs. May their words and deeds honor You. Lord, guide them in righteous paths that will keep America strong. Equip them to conduct the work of freedom with justice and humility. Give them contentment that comes from knowing and serving You.

Guide America, making it a lighthouse for a dark and turbulent world. Lord, thank You for being our strength and shield.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

FISCAL AGREEMENT AND CYBER-SECURITY INFORMATION SHARING BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as colleagues have no doubt already noted, a fiscal agreement has been filed that addresses a number of important issues. Members currently have the opportunity to review it. I hope they will take that opportunity. I will certainly have more to say on the matter later. But for now, I encourage all our colleagues to examine the agreement.

On the legislation before the Senate today, the challenges posed by cyber attacks are real and they are growing. They don't just threaten governments and businesses; they threaten individuals as well. Everyone understands that a cyber attack can be a deeply invasive attack on personal privacy. Everyone understands that a cyber attack can be financially crippling. That is why everyone should want to see the bipartisan cyber security bill before us pass today.

Its voluntary information sharing provisions are key to defeating cyber attacks and protecting the personal information of the people we represent. We also know the bill contains measures to protect civil liberties and individual privacy.

It is no wonder the Senate voted to advance it by a large bipartisan vote of 83 to 14 last week. I want to thank Chairman BURR and Vice Chairman FEINSTEIN of the Intelligence Committee for their continued hard work on this legislation. We will consider a number of amendments from both sides of the aisle today. Then we will proceed to a final vote on the underlying bill. I urge every colleague to join me in voting to protect the personal data, privacy, and property of the American people.

ENERGY REGULATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, the Obama administration recently published massive energy regulations that will not do a thing to meaningfully affect global carbon levels. It will not make a noticeable difference to the global environment. But it will ship more middle-class jobs overseas. It will punish the poor. It will make it even harder for

coal families in States such as Kentucky to put food on the table. In other words, it is facts-optional extremism wrapped in callous indifference. Senators from both parties are saying: Enough is enough.

We filed bipartisan measures that would allow Congress to overturn these two-pronged regressive regulations. I joined Senator HEITKAMP and Senator CAPITO on a measure that would address the prong that pertains to the existing energy sources. Senator MANCHIN joined me as I introduced a measure that would address the prong that pertains to new energy sources. Together these measures represent a comprehensive solution. Colleagues will join me to speak about these resolutions later today. I am sure they will say more about the measures we filed and the process associated with them.

But what everyone should know is this: The publication of these regulations does not represent an end but a beginning. It is the beginning of a new front to defend hard-working middle-class Americans from massive, massive regulations that target them. That front is opening here in Congress, and it is opening across the country as States file lawsuits and Governors stand up for their own middle-class constituents. The battle may not be short, and the battle may not be easy, but Kentuckians and hard-working Americans should know that I am going to keep standing up for them throughout this effort.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BUDGET AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Democrats have long called for bipartisan action to stop these devastating sequester cuts because they hurt our middle class

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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